



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray
Mayor

May 17, 2017

Dear Building Owner/Manager,

The Seattle Fire Department (SFD) is implementing a new high-rise inspection program to promote fire and life safety. A small team of inspectors from the Fire Prevention Division will be dedicated to providing high quality, consistent inspections in high-rise buildings throughout Seattle.

High-rise buildings present a unique risk to public safety because they often contain large concentrations of people above the reach of aerial ladders. SFD anticipates that the new high-rise building inspection program will bring several benefits to the community. The program will help us better meet our mission of saving lives and preserving property. It will also create a better partnership between SFD and building managers and engineers. The program is intended to relieve the inspection burden on SFD's responding engine companies, particularly in downtown Seattle. These companies experience some of the highest run volumes in the City, and relieving them of their heavy high-rise inspection responsibilities will help improve emergency response times.

The program will begin with a pilot from July 1 to December 31, 2017, in high-rise buildings in the downtown core, Pioneer Square, and South Lake Union. For a list of buildings included in the pilot, please see the enclosure. Buildings were chosen to achieve a mix of various locations, occupancy types, and number of stories.

Upon conclusion of the pilot in December 2017, the program is anticipated to be extended citywide and all high-rise buildings in Seattle will become part of the program.

Inspections will be scheduled in advance and conducted annually, with a goal of having inspections recur in the same month each year. The inspection fee of \$217 per hour will offset the cost of hiring dedicated Firefighters to serve as High-Rise Inspectors in the Fire Prevention Division, as well as provide administrative support to this program and customers.

SFD would like to ensure this new program works well for the building owners, engineers, and property managers who are our partners and we have prepared the following resources:

- **Town Hall Meeting**

SFD will host a town hall meeting for high-rise building owners, engineers, and managers on **Thursday, June 8, from 1 – 2:30 p.m.** to provide more information. The meeting will take place in the **Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 4060 (40th) floor, at 700 5th Ave.** The entrance to the parking garage is off 6th Avenue between Columbia and Cherry. You do not need to RSVP, please just join us if interested. If you have more questions, you may contact Karen Grove at Karen.Grove@seattle.gov.

- **Program Design in Conjunction with External Stakeholder Team**

During Q1 and Q2 2017, the Seattle Fire Department worked with a team of external stakeholders including building engineers and property managers from some of the largest high-rises and property management companies in the area. The team's participation was a valuable source of input and ideas as SFD designed a program to achieve our public safety mission in a way that works well for our customers.

- **Pre-Inspection Checklist and Scheduled Inspection Times**

To provide consistent and predictable inspections, the Seattle Fire Department will be scheduling inspections up to 30 days in advance and providing a pre-inspection checklist, so customers know how to prepare in order to have an easy and successful inspection experience. The checklist will be available for review during the June 8th town hall and will be posted to our website during the month of June.

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/FMO/fmo.htm> at or email our office at SFD_FMO_HighRise@seattle.gov. Thank you for your partnership in helping preserve lives and protecting property for all who live, work, visit, or do business in Seattle.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ch Cordova', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chief Charles Cordova, Fire Marshal
Seattle Fire Department